

Customer No.: 31561  
Application No.: 10/707,648  
Docket No.: 9705-US-PA

**REMARKS**

**Present Status of the Application**

The Office Action rejected claims 1-5 and 9-12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as being unpatentable over Applicant Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Castore et al. (US 5,712,706). The Office Action also indicated that claims 16-18 are allowed. Furthermore, the Office Action stated that claims 7-8 and 14-15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants appreciate these indications of allowable subject matter. Applicants have amended claims 1 and 9 to introduce the allowable subject matters in claims 7 and 14, respectively. After entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-5, 8-12 and 15 remain pending in the present application, and reconsideration of those claims is respectfully requested.

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**CONCLUSION**

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the pending claims 1-5, 8-12 and 15 are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Date : April 20, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

  
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